

BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY: FRANCISCO CEBALLOS, equipment technician

Francisco Ceballos, Visayan, was born on April 23 in Makaweli Camp 4, Kauai, son of Roque and Apolonia Garcia Ramos.

Ceballos was a year-and-a-half-old baby when his father was killed during the Hanapepe incident.

His mother remarried Marcelino Ceballos of Waimea and the couple had four other children.

Francisco married Lucia Semana in 1943; they have four children. Ceballos graduated from Waimea High School in 1941 and worked briefly for Waimea Sugar Company in 1941-42 and for Waimea Dairy from 1943-1967. Since 1967 he has worked for Kentron and Dynelectron at Mana. His hobbies include taxidermy, guitar, electronics and tennis. He is a Catholic and member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

NOTES FROM UNRECORDED INTERVIEW

with

Francisco Ceballos

September 10, 1978

Kalaheo, Kauai

BY: Chad Taniguchi

These notes are from an unrecorded interview with Mr. Francisco Ceballos at his home in Kalaheo, September 10, 1978. His wife Lucy was present. Francisco's natural father, Roque Ramos, was one of those killed during the strike. His mother, Apolonia Garcia Ramos who married Marcelino Ceballos after the strike, is still alive at 83, but has lost her ability to remember details for the past three years. The interview was for the purpose of gathering information which Francisco may have heard from his mother as he grew up. He was 1-1/2 years old when his father was killed.

Francisco recalls becoming aware of his father's death at age five because every year on All Souls' Day (November 1) he would visit his father's grave. This was when he started grammar school. His mother told him that his father died in the strike.

Francisco's stepfather, Mr. Marcelino Ceballos, made a small fence around the grave and planted a cactus-type tree on the spot. In the Filipino tradition, food and prayers were offered at the grave. Francisco thinks that the gravesite was graded when the Filipino cemetery in Hanapepe was cleaned up and thinks that there is no marking for the gravesite at present.

Francisco was told by his mother that during the strike, a scab was going through Hanapepe town. The strikers stopped this guy and tried to lick him. When the police intervened and wanted the strikers to surrender the fighting started.

Francisco was not sure exactly where his mother was at the time of the incident, at Camp 4 Makaweli or at the Hanapepe strike camp, but on that day, she was nursing her baby Francisco. She fell asleep. When she awoke, her husband was gone and so was the bolo knife which they had hidden under the mattress. She knew then that he had gone to join the other strikers.

Francisco thinks that his mother had remained in Camp 4 that day and was later informed by someone else that her husband Roque Ramos had been killed. She went to Waimea Courthouse to identify her husband's body. He was shot in the lower back and the bullet exited through his stomach.

Francisco was told by his mother and Mr. Bayot (deceased) that his father had cut a policeman in the stomach with a cane knife ("his guts come out") and then was trying to get away through a barbed wire fence when he was shot. His clothes got caught in the barbed wire.

Following the incident, his mother was invited to stay in Waimea by her second cousin, Mr. Delanoza. Her friend Baleriana, whose husband was also killed, was also invited to stay. Mr. Delanoza and Mr. Ceballos were also first cousins. Mr. Delanoza ended up living with Baleriana (last name of Baleriana's first husband "Isidro" not known) and Francisco's mother lived with Mr. Ceballos. It was not clear whether these relationships were planned from the beginning or evolved over time. The Delanoza and Ceballos families lived only two houses away from each other and remained good friends throughout their lives. The houses are still standing.

The Ceballoses and Delanozas lived in common law marriages for a long time, until the Alien Registration Act required them to become formally married (about the time of World War II).

Francisco had been baptized as "Ramos" but had grown up and gone to school as "Ceballos." He always thought of his stepfather Mr. Ceballos as "Papa." When he and Lucy got married he was required to reconcile his birth certificate ("Ramos") with his drivers license and all other records ("Ceballos"). Mrs. Delanoza and Mrs. Lagmay were witnesses who attested to his birth as Francisco Ramos, son of Mrs. Roque Ramos. This formal name change occurred in 1943 or 1944.

Francisco has four step-siblings, Clemente and Lorenzo Ceballos, Sally Edayan, and Betty Parraga.

Francisco remembers hearing his mother and Mrs. Delanoza frequently talking about the incident as he was growing up. They talked of having had the intention to return to the Philippines if they hadn't remarried.

Mr. Roque Ramos came from Argao, Cebu, and Francisco's mother from Argao also. Francisco was born in Makaweli, Camp 4, delivered by a doctor who came to the house in the camp. His parents had been married in the Philippines and had a daughter who died of pneumonia before they came to Hawaii. Francisco doesn't know what year his parents came, but knows they came in the hope of making lots of money in Hawaii. His mother used to recall that they had struck for higher pay. Her comment on Roque Ramos was to blame him for being so hotheaded and joining in the strike riot. Francisco says his father was known as a big, strong man who had a reputation for being hardheaded, one-track minded, with a mean temper.

Francisco's mother recalled that all or mostly Visayans struck. Ilocanos were relatively new immigrants and didn't want to get involved.

Francisco also recalled his mother mentioning that Mr. Feliciano Bayot had run away from the fight by going through a window. Francisco was not

surprised when shown the court records in which Mr. Bayot was listed as "not guilty" of riot.

Francisco's mother mentioned the name of a man who had a lot of power. He would take off his shirt and bullets either did not reach or glanced off him. The source of his power was not known.

Francisco's stepfather, Mr. Marcelino Ceballos, was a carpenter at Waimea Sugar Mill and had helped make the wooden coffins of the dead Filipinos.

Francisco's mother had mentioned the name Grande as one of the strike leaders.

Francisco said that this incident did not stand out as a major influence when he was growing up. Once, an older Hawaiian boy talked about his father shooting Filipinos, but Francisco did not say anything, and nothing came of it.

The 1924 Filipino Strike on Kauai

Volume I

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